

WEATHER INDICATIONS.
RAIN
WASHINGTON, December 31.—In
directions for Virginia: Warmer, rain,
fresh, followed Sunday night by
colder clearing weather and north-
westly winds. For North and
South Carolina: Warmer, rain, fresh to
brisk southeasterly winds.

The Daily Times.

THE DAILY TIMES ALMANAC.			
9 a.m.	32°	9 p.m.	40°
12 m.	34°	Midnight	40°
3 p.m.	35°	1 a.m.	38°
6 p.m.	38°	Mean temp.	36.5°
Min. wind.	7.5 m.p.h.	Moon rises.	7.32
Sun sets.	5.50	Day's length.	9h. 51m.

VOL. II.—NUMBER 373.

RICHMOND, VA., SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 1888.

PRICE, TWO CENTS

TRADE STATISTICS.

AN IDEA OF RICHMOND'S BUSINESS DURING THE PAST YEAR.

Interviews With a Number of Our Leading Merchants in Different Branches of Trade—Encouraging Reports and Promising Outlook—Customhouse.

To-day being the first day of the new year 1888, nothing could be more appropriate than a brief review of the trade of the city during the year just closed in connection with the outlook and prospects of the one just beginning. To this end a reporter of the Times called yesterday on a number of the representative leading houses of this city in the various branches of business, and from them learned the following:

TOBACCO.

To ascertain the status of the trade in the leading staple of Virginia, tobacco, Messrs. P. H. Mayo & Company were called on to give their views. Major Mayo stated that their business throughout the year had been very good, and that there had been generally a large increase in the tobacco trade of the city within the last twelve months. This was attributed to the advance in price of leaf tobacco, which had given a widespread spirit to the trade. From all he could learn this was the experience of all the tobacco manufacturers of the city. The outlook was also very good. How large a crop of Burley tobacco would be raised during the coming season, and how it might affect the Virginia market, he could of course make no estimate, still he believed that the farmers of the State had learned that the secret of success was in making good tobacco and would turn their attention more than ever to producing the best article, and that would tend to keep up the prices of the Virginia product. The only trouble he saw possibly in the way of a prosperous trade for manufacturers was in the agitation of the repeal of the tobacco tax and the approaching presidential election. Concerning the first he feared that it would create an uncertainty in trade, which would prove detrimental. He had little doubt, however, that the repeal of the tax would be followed by a system of rebates which would save the buyers themselves and enable the new order of things to be instituted without any trouble. As to the latter, he had talked with a number of prominent men of both parties whom he had met at home and abroad, and the renomination and re-election of President Cleveland was so generally conceded that the demoralization of business always experienced in presidential election years would be less felt than usual. Taken altogether, therefore, he believed that the city and country had great reason to congratulate themselves upon the experience of the year past, and upon the promising outlook for the year just opening.

INTERNAL REVENUE STATISTICS.

In this same connection a call at the Internal Revenue office showed that the latest collection of the Second Revenue district of Virginia for the year ending yesterday was \$1,837,026.41. This district includes Petersburg and Norfolk. The internal revenue collections during the year 1887 over the year 1886 was more than \$350,000. This revenue is all obtained from tobacco, excepting a trifling amount received from other sources. And though Petersburg and Norfolk are included in the district, Richmond pays by far the largest proportion. During Christmas week the tobacco factories of Richmond were more than usually hard at work. The quantity of tobacco shipped by them can be better stated by a record of the tax stamps purchased during that week, as compared with Christmas, 1886. All these stamps were sold to Richmond factories:

	1886.	1887.
December 21.....	\$1,200.32	\$3,450.22
December 22.....	2,494.50	7,718.87
December 23.....	2,047.67	4,087.91
December 24.....	1,240.88	2,097.88
December 25.....	2,372.75	2,387.62
December 26.....	706.86	4,551.59
December 27.....	1,445.66	6,383.51
December 28.....	1,055.07	2,503.54
December 29.....	846.16	4,571.50
December 31.....	\$16,892.37	\$30,067.27

NOTES.

Messrs. Yancey & Bosher were called on to get their views as to the trade in dry-goods and notions. They stated that during the year their trade had been good, especially during the past six months. In the early part of the year business was somewhat slack, as the farmers had not then realized on their crops, and had been - and put to it the year preceding. But during 1887 crops had been good and the country in better spirits. In consequence money had been more plentiful and collections much better than usual. The November and December collections particularly had largely exceeded that of the same months last year, and all, in their opinion, that was wanted was to take off the tax on tobacco so as to give the small manufacturers a chance to compete with the larger ones. This would lead to a general revival of all branches of country trade, and, of course, the cities would feel the benefit.

HOOTS AND SHOES.

Messrs. Wingo, Elliott, and Crump were asked their opinions as to the boot and shoe trade. They replied that the fall trade had been unusually fine. Last spring it had not been so good because the farmers were poor, and most of them had to buy the necessities of life both for man and beast. During the past year, however, the farmers had made all these necessities for themselves, and consequently they were in good spirits and felt more like branching out. This was the condition at present and made the future very encouraging. With the State debt and tobacco tax problems solved this firm saw no difficulty in a prosperous future for the people of the city and State.

DRUGS AND MEDICINES.

Messrs. Powers, Taylor & Co. stated that so far as their experience of the drug business was concerned they had done a larger trade than usual during the past year, though so far as profits were con-

cerned they could not speak definitely, since expenses of carrying on business were very heavy and margin of profit small. Collections though had been good, and the outlook for the coming year was bright as indicated by all appearances. All throughout Christmas trade had kept up unusually well in both city and country.

WHOLESALE GROCERIES.

A number of leading wholesale grocery houses were also visited, and without exception they all made reports similar to those above—namely, that owing to poor crops and other circumstances business in the early part of last year was very poor, but that within the last six months it had greatly revived, and bid fair to be good during the ensuing year. All felt greatly encouraged at the outlook.

RAILROAD RECEIPTS.

A conversation with Mr. Potts, general freight agent of the Richmond and Danville railroad, showed that the receipts over his line for the past three months, as compared with the same time last year, had largely increased. For instance, in the matter of cotton alone, the receipts from September 1st, 1886, to December, 1886, were 122,332 bales; while during the same months of 1887 the receipts were 226,496 bales, an increase of 104,064 bales in the three months. This was attributed to the new territory acquired by the road by securing control of the East Tennessee, Virginia and Georgia line, and the consequence is that twelve steamers were loaded at West Point for Liverpool with this great Southern staple during the year. This all showed a decided increase in Richmond's prosperity, especially as cotton has heretofore been considered an outside element in the wealth and prosperity of Richmond. Receipts of other articles of merchandise were in even greater proportion, all going to show the progress which the city has made of her own innate force within the past few months.

CUSTOMHOUSE RECEIPTS.

A further explanation of this fact is shown by the following Customhouse statistics:
During the year 1887, 108,679 barrels of flour were exported to Brazil, valued at \$447,729.07, a decrease from 1886 of \$15,434.
Cotton exports, 80,541 bales. Value, \$3,776,695. An increase over 1886 of 37,950 bales and a value of \$1,903,350.
Manufactured tobacco exports, 33,819 pounds. Value, \$9,218.36. An increase over 1886 (when there was nothing in the way of tobacco exported) of 33,170 pounds and a value of \$9,076.16.
Coal exports, 1,834 tons. Value, \$4,437.77. There was no coal exported in 1886, excepting one cargo valued at \$486.15.
Barrel hoops exports, 6,008 bundles, valued at \$6,008; a decrease in value from 1886 of \$149.
Lard exports, 43,483 pounds. Value, \$4,081.55. None exported in 1886.
Merchandise miscellaneous exports are valued at \$1,432.83.
Total value of exports, \$4,249,592.03. Increase over 1886, \$1,904,514.27.
Duties collected during 1887, \$3,872.59. Increase over 1886, \$25,280.62.
Tonnage dues collected 1887, \$266.19. Increase over 1886, \$254.53.
Imports dutiable, \$90,901.49; imports free, \$9,121.31; total, \$99,022.80. Increase over 1886, \$72,710.47.
American vessels entered coastwise, 916; American vessels entered from foreign ports, 3; American vessels cleared to foreign ports, 5; foreign vessels entered coastwise, 39; foreign vessels cleared coastwise, 3; foreign vessels entered from foreign ports, 10; foreign vessels cleared to foreign ports, 50.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

The above is a very fair summary of the trade of the city during the past year, and of the prospects for the year just beginning to day. They are sufficient to show that Richmond is still maintaining her lead of all the cities of the South, and that as time progresses she will increase the lead between herself and all competitors.

The City Water Works.

At your request I send you a brief report and a few statistics of the Water Department, which you may find worth publishing in your New Year's paper. The City Water Works are in good condition, but certain repairs will have to be put on the new pump during the coming year, as the machinery has been kept almost constantly at work since its completion in 1882. The consumption of water is rapidly increasing, and in a few years we will be compelled to add to our pumping capacity, the daily consumption for the past year averaging 11,000,000 gallons, and of this amount at least 40 per cent is wasted.
During the year 26,006 lineal feet of pipe mains were laid, 28 new fire hydrants put in, and 806 taps or house supplies. Of the taps 771 were for houses not before supplied with water, and 29 water meters. The manner of supplying parties by meter measurement is growing in favor, and is more satisfactory to both the city and consumer. The number of taps put in is an increase of nearly ten per cent upon the entire number in the city, and furnishes further evidence of the rapidly increasing demand for water.

The receipts for water during the year will reach \$109,500; disbursements, \$58,000. \$50,000 of the disbursements was expended in pipe-extensions, and actual expense, \$35,000, which shows a difference between the receipts and actual expenses of \$15,000, an exhibit of which shows the Water Department is a source of considerable revenue to the city. The Committee on Water will recommend at an early date a new water rate, which I feel sure will meet with the approval of all interested.

Yours very respectfully,
CHARLES E. BOLLING,
Superintendent.

Flour Inspection.

The following is the quarterly report of flour inspections for the city of Richmond for the quarter ending December 31, 1887: Family, 39,993; extra superfine, 4,867; superfine, 233; fine, 49; condemned, 493; number of barrels, 36,648.
W. M. R. LEX, Flour Inspector.

SOCIAL SCINTILLATIONS.

GRACES AND GOSSIP AS REPORTED BY OUR LADIES MAN.

Gay Christmas Season—A Number of Germans in Which Many of Richmond's Social Favorites Figure—Some of the Costumes—A Suggestive Query.

The gaiety of the Christmas season commenced Tuesday evening last with the german of the Tuesday Club, which was perfect in every respect. This club was organized with the prime object in view of having a *personnel* to be surpassed by none of the city's society organizations, and this object has been successfully achieved.

Consisting, as it does, of the best breed of our young men, and under the patronage of charming and popular matrons, all of its assemblies are of an enjoyable and refined nature.

About forty-five couples formed Tuesday's german, and bright faces and flitting forms in plenty were led through the puzzling figures by Mr. John Mallory, than whom there are few better leaders anywhere.

Among the many familiar faces we noted Mr. and Mrs. Thomas N. Carter, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Bolling, Misses Sallie and Mary Anderson, Elsie and Mary Williams, Gertrude Rives, Elsie Strother, Lucy Blair and many others. Of the visitors come to share our hospitality during the holidays we remember Miss Emma Gildersleeve of Baltimore, Miss Flannagan of New York, and Miss Jennie McPhail, a former Richmonder, who has been visiting her old home for several months.

At 12:30 o'clock the strains of "Home, Sweet Home," chased the revellers from the scene of the dance into their wraps, and with hearty "Good Night," "Had a delightful time," "Wasn't it a pretty german?" "The success of the season?" and many other familiar words, every soul went home light-hearted, sleepy-eyed and contented with the world and with themselves.

We have our five-o'clock teas, evening parties, musical clubs, "progressive anglings," theatre parties and fortnightly germans which we always enjoy, but there is one event in every winter's history of Richmond society which is ever talked about six months afterwards, and the repetition of which is looked forward to six months ahead—need it be named? Well, if it must be told you, the "Christmas German" of the Richmond German Club held annually during December holiday week, is invariably the most brilliant gathering of the gay season, and the entertainment of Wednesday evening last at the Belvidere did not fall one iota short of the usual mark of tone, picturesqueness and genuine pleasure.

By actual count, before the german commenced there were in the spacious hall one hundred and twenty-five chairs. These were soon filled by folk on pleasure bent, and gallants were kept busy for many minutes furnishing additional seats for the large attendance of beauty and chivalry.

After two hours of delightful dance the large centre-rooms of the hall were thrown open at 12 o'clock to make way for a squad of waiters who brought from the adjoining rooms tables and ample accessories to a fine supper, and in a few moments were providing for the palates of Tersichore's worshippers. The repast was complete in every respect, and an abundance of the care-chasing "Mum" ministered to the wits of the feasters, and when the "wee sma' hours" found all departing it was with regret at leaving and thoughts of the next Christmas tide. We fear it was a vain task, but we will try to give the names of some of the many present.

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Haxall, Mr. and Mrs. Meredith Montague, Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Lathrop, Mr. and Mrs. Charles U. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Byrd Warwick, Mr. and Mrs. Otway Warwick, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Bolling, Mr. and Mrs. E. T. D. Myers, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Thomas N. Carter, Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. William L. Royall, Mr. and Mrs. John P. T. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Motley of New York, Mr. Dr. George Ross, Mrs. Mattie Paul Myers, and Governor Lee.

Among the many brilliantly dressed ladies the following toilettes were especially remarked:

Miss Lockwood, the charming guest of Mrs. Frank Patrick, delicate and very becoming costume of pink gauze, prettily draped.
Miss Handy, black lace, velvet, and silver pastermenterie.
Miss Gertrude Rives, pale green satin with exquisite illusion of the same color.
Miss Elsie Williams, pale blue satin and gauze.
Miss Ryland, a dainty pink toilet.
Miss Columbia Hayes, pink gauze and plum colored ribbons.
Miss Eva de Treville, canary satin and gauze drapery.

Mrs. Philip Haxall, exquisite costume of figured green of a beautifully pale and novel tint.

Regrets were expressed on all sides that Mrs. Willie Allen's recent illness had deprived her many friends the pleasure of her spontaneity and bright face, and as many hopes were indulged in that she may be soon restored to the society that has so missed her.

The West-End German entertained its many friends and visitors with an evening of rare enjoyment Thursday night at "The Belvidere," and we regret that space limits us, else we would try to describe a few of the evening's many memorable features.

Mrs. and the Misses Cullen entertained their friends at 5 o'clock tea Thursday, and the drawing rooms of Dr. Cullen's residence echoed with jest and gossip until late into the evening, when the company retired in merry mood and with thanks to their fair hostesses for the hours so pleasantly whiled.

The marriage of Miss Nellie Forbes, a favorite in Richmond, to Dr. Will-

Owens of Savannah, Ga., took place at her home, Fredericksburg, Va., Wednesday evening last.

Amongst the events of the coming week we note the Tuesday Club's german—an extra Christmas No.—to be given at the Belvidere Tuesday evening, and the nuptials of Miss Pace and Mr. Hite of Louisville, Ky., Wednesday afternoon at the Park Place church. This will be a brilliant wedding, and as the hour is both a novel and convenient one, will be witnessed by many friends of the bride and her parents.

Well, I'm fagged out! Aren't you? Qui?

NEW YEAR'S CALLS.

The Day to be More than Usually Observed.

New Year's calling will be more generally observed in this city to-morrow than has been the custom for years. Among the many who will receive we note the following:

Miss Sue Neal will receive at her home, No. 9 West Main street, assisted by Miss Eva Flannagan of New York; Miss Graham of Lexington, Va.; Miss Kittie Brown of Hartford, Conn.; Miss Lucy Talbot of Danville, Va.; Miss Nellie Rider, Misses Rose and Lena Ferrell, Mrs. B. D. Neal, Jr.

Mrs. Rosalie Winston will receive at her residence, 102 North Ninth street, on New Year's day, assisted by the following young ladies: Miss Marie Stuart Carter, Miss Steele, Southwest Virginia; Miss Grassaway, Miss Kittie Scott, Miss Montague, Miss Minor, Miss Pauntleroy, Miss Mayo, Miss Spotts, city; Miss Wolfe, Hampden Sydney, Va.; Miss Burwell, city. Assisting married ladies: Mrs. Mayo, Mrs. Baker, Mrs. John Lee, Mrs. B. S. Winston.

With Mrs. Charles U. Williams and Miss Elsie Williams—Mrs. Fitzhugh Lee, Miss Sallie Archer Anderson, Miss Virgie Archer, Miss Bruce and others.

Mrs. and Miss Lewis will receive at 313 West Franklin, assisted by Mrs. DeCarter Axtell, Mrs. Miles Cary, Miss Columbia Bays, Miss Fanny Gordon, Miss Maggie Stringfellow, Miss Coke, Miss Clark of Atlanta, and Miss Cotes of St. Louis. Hours, 4 to 10.

Mrs. Governor Lee will receive at the Executive Mansion from 3 to 6 p.m., and will be assisted by the following ladies: Miss Jungerich of Philadelphia, who is her guest, Miss Lockwood of Boston, and Misses Handy, Lyons, Myers, Ross, and Pegram of Richmond.

Mrs. Blount Mason, Miss Myers, Miss Strother, Miss Saunders of Atlanta, and Miss Leigh of Norfolk, with Mrs. and Miss Ryland at No. 201 East Marshall street, from 2 to 7.

Mrs. Frank Christian, Miss Wortham, Miss Perry of Norfolk, and Miss Gildersleeve of Baltimore, with Mrs. Back and Mrs. Williams at No. 202 East Main street, from 2 to 7.

Miss Harris and Miss Ellen Harris of Louisville, will receive at 202 East Main, from 2 to 6 p.m., assisted by the following ladies: Mrs. S. S. Cadot, Miss Knox, Miss Bettie Deane, Miss Lillie Powell, Miss Virgie Cadot, Mrs. Florence McInney, Miss Annie Jacobs, Miss Nellie Rogers.

Mrs. ex President Tyler will receive at the residence of her son, Mr. Lyon G. Tyler, No. 914 Capitol street. She will be assisted by Mrs. Lyon G. Tyler, Miss Julia Spencer, and Mrs. W. G. Waller.

Henrico County Court.

The continued case of the Commonwealth against Charles Vaysaire charged with the larceny of cord wood was tried yesterday before Justice Vincent at the County Courthouse. The accused was charged with having sold some wood belonging to the owner of the land adjoining his own. The evidence showed that the matter arose out of a misconception as to the boundary lines, and after hearing the evidence, Mr. Vaysaire was honorably discharged. Mr. Vaysaire is a native of France has been a citizen of Richmond for the past 15 years and has many friends here who will rejoice in his vindication. In the civil action brought by Mr. Sherwin Clarke against Vaysaire for \$320, the value of two cords of wood, judgment was given in favor of Clarke. Mr. J. Samuel Parrish was counsel for Mr. Vaysaire.

Squire Vincent yesterday also tried the case of Jesse Christian, the negro who was charged with stealing three cedar logs from the land of W. H. Cornell. He was found guilty and given fifteen days in jail. He took an appeal, and gave bond in the sum of \$100 for his appearance before Judge Minor.

Squire Vincent also had before him yesterday four cases of trespass to try. In three cases dogs were the trespassers, and in the fourth a dog was the culprit. Neither prosecutor nor defendant was present, and hence no action was taken.

LOCAL NOTES.

JANUARY 1ST, 1888.—WE WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

The Valley Progressive Euchre Club have elected the following officers: President, D. J. O'Neil; vice-president, Charles N. Syles; secretary, William Baldwin; financial secretary, John Hunt; treasurer, A. R. Grubbs; trustees, William O'Neil, Augustus Harris, and D. O'Neil. The Club will get their charter from Judge Welford next week, and they will meet nightly at Gifford's Hall, corner Buchanan and Baldwin streets.

Dr. Stratton requests that the charge against Mr. Delaware Escho, preferred against him before the Committee on Health Friday night, as reported in Wednesday's TIMES, was his first offence, and that he being paid off at Christmas only enjoyed the holidays in a pardonable manner. Mr. Escho is a good man, attends to his business, and has given general satisfaction to his superiors.

Mr. Charles W. Goddin, clerk in the office of the commissioner of the revenue, has announced himself a candidate for the clerkship of the Chancery Court. Messrs. Berry (present incumbent) and Meany are the other candidates so far announced.

The electric cars made a trip over the entire line yesterday. Reports such as this will soon cease being a chestnut, as these cars will in all probability soon be really running regularly.

MANCHESTER MATTERS.

New Year's Notes From Across the River.

Mr. R. H. Toler, the senior member of the firm of R. H. Toler & Sons, was presented by his employees with a gold headed cane as a Christmas gift. Mr. Toler told his employees how cordially he appreciated the gift, and how he would in all time to come value it. It has not been many months since the furniture factory, of which this firm are the owners, burned down. It has been rebuilt in a substantial manner, and is manufacturing furniture of sterling quality.

By a mysterious dispensation of Providence the funeral of Mr. Rich'd Keams, which took place Friday last occurred on the anniversary of the funeral of his father, who died one year ago.

The Manchester boys have been doing some good skating on the ponds in the neighborhood.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Woolfolk of Louisville, Ky., are in the city on their bridal tour.

To-morrow night Rev. John J. Colpton, rector of Meade Memorial church, will hold a reception at the rectory which adjoins the church. He invites all the members of his congregation, and strangers will also be welcome. Hours, 8 to 11 p.m.

Rev. W. T. Richardson will preach this morning at the Presbyterian church. Rev. Mr. Little of Charlottesville, a Richmond man, is expected to assume charge of the church shortly.

All the pulpits of the various churches in the city this morning will be filled by the regular pastors. At Meade Memorial church the services will be fitting to the day celebrated, the Feast of the Circumcision.

Police Notes.

Three tramps were before the Police Court yesterday and were each, after inquiry as to their whereabouts, given directions how best to leave town. They went by the free bridge, which leads them southward.

Henry Walker a negro boy, stole a basketful of coal from the N. & M. V. R. R. Company. His mother whipped him in the private room of the court, and he went home. He will not steal any more coal.

John Lewis was charged with stealing a coat from some person unknown. Lewis, who is a boy with a thief-shaped head and a luminous black face, was turned over to his mother, who whipped him soundly. The police will keep a watch on him whenever he is seen in the street.

William Bevens was before the court on the charge of cutting William Landrum. Landrum still remaining at home in consequence of his illness, was not present. The case was continued until January 14th.

MASONIC APPOINTMENTS.

Lecturers and Working Committee: Appointed by the Grand Master.

Under authority granted him by the Grand Lodge at its session a few weeks ago, Grand Master of Masons in Virginia, William F. Drinkard has made the following appointments:

J. C. Little, Norfolk, grand lecturer District No. 1.

Harry B. Owen, Manchester, lecturer District No. 2.

F. H. Hill, Madison Courthouse, lecturer District No. 3.

George W. Wright, Marion, lecturer District No. 4.

Grand Working Committee.—J. C. Little, Harry B. Owen, F. H. Hill, George W. Wright, John Clifton E. W. Eubank, W. E. Turner, George H. Ray, James S. Yeatman.

A New Year's Cutting Affray.

Between 9 and 10 o'clock last night two men named Cannon and Green made an assault on another named Hays, all of whom were employed at the shoe store of Mr. Drew, corner Eighth and Main streets. Hays was cut on the head by Green with a shoemaker's knife, and the wound while painful is not serious. All three men were arrested, Cannon being taken in as an accomplice. They will enjoy their New Year's Day in the station house.

The Academy.

Nothing will be presented at this popular place of amusement until Thursday, when Miss Hettie Bernard Chase, supported by a popular company, will appear in the new American comedy drama Rags, or the Wilcox of Woodland Farm. This is pronounced one of the best American plays ever written, and its name is sufficiently unique to attract good houses.

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TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

THE READING RAILROAD STRIKE STILL UNSETTLED.

Nearly One Thousand Workers Stop Work. The Reading Shop Men Refuse to Quit. New Men Employed—The Crown Prince Much Improved—General Summary.

PHILADELPHIA, December 31.—Nearly 1,000 men employed in and around the extensive freight depot of the Reading Railroad Company at Willow-street wharf went out on a strike this morning, and the work of handling freight there is consequently badly crippled. This action of the men was in pursuance of the decisions of various local assemblies of the Knights of Labor last evening to support the order of the Reading convention. The men who went out were employed as conductors and brakemen on the Willow-street shifting crews, and in handling freight and in other capacities at the depot.

At the general offices of the company on Fourth street no information regarding the situation could be obtained. Everything was reported as working smoothly at the depots at Ninth and Green streets and at Sixteenth and Pennsylvania avenue.

THE READING SHOP MEN CONTINUE TO WORK.

READING, PA., December 31.—Up to noon to-day there were no signs of a strike on the Reading Railroad in this section. The company's car and machine shops, which employ in their several departments 800 men, have not been as busy as now for ten years. Several Knights of Labor assemblies of this city held meetings and the prevailing sentiment was that a strike would be ill-timed. There was a notable decrease in the number of coal cars which passed through here so far to-day, commencing with this morning, and this is attributed to the troubles in the coal regions and the stoppage at Gordon and Mahanoy Planes.

Nearly 300 men have been hired in this city within the past two days. Most of them were sent to Port Richmond and Palo Alto, while a few were sent to Tamaqua, Gordon and Shamokin. Some eighty men were hired this morning and sent to Port Richmond and other places.

THE CROWN PRINCE.

Dr. Mackenzie Never Admitted that the Prince Had a Cancer.

LONDON, December 31.—In an interview to-day, Dr. Mackenzie stated that he was greatly pleased with the improvement in the condition of the crown prince, Frederick William. Dr. Mackenzie said he had never admitted that the disease from which the Crown Prince is suffering is a cancer. The only statement he had made which could be so construed was last November, when he said the new growth was apparently cancer like. The microscope, by the use of which alone can the nature of the disease be ascertained, so far show that it is not malignant. The malignant symptoms manifested in November have passed away. Dr. Mackenzie said, however, that if the disease is not cancer, it certainly is very protracted.

A SNOW BLOCKADE.

All Trains Delayed and Some Abandoned in the Northwest.

ST. PAUL, December 31.—Only points north of the international boundary and in Montana reported below zero temperatures last night. It was still snowing at St. Paul at midnight, but the fury of the storm had abated. All trains into St. Paul were one to four hours late. Sioux Falls, Dak., reports trains badly delayed. Huron, Dak., reports the sending out of a relief train to meet the Chicago mail, stuck at Arlington. At Brainerd, Minn., the snow is drifting badly. The rotary snow machines have done capital service on the Northern Pacific. Shoope, Minn., says all north and south roads are blocked. All Northern Pacific freight trains east of the Missouri river were abandoned yesterday.

TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

Mrs. Justice H. Rathbone, wife of the founder of the Knights of Pythias, died at Alexandria at 1 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

Colonel Theodore Hyatt, president of the Pennsylvania Military Academy of this city, died yesterday morning, aged sixty-one years. He had been sick for several weeks, and Wednesday underwent the operation of lithotomy, performed by Professor Forbes of Philadelphia, and from the effects of this he died. He has been president of the Military Academy since he founded it